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CO-EXISTENCE -- THE WORD OF THE YEAR

When Edward Murrow and his exciting panel of international correspondents from some nine or ten strategic capitals appeared on the C.B.S. television program Sunday, January 2nd, he referred to the word "co-existence" as the WORD OF THE YEAR.

A use of the word co-existence by the Soviet Union should not necessarily bring it in disrepute. True, we may desire to give Christian content to the word and to place it in a somewhat different frame of reference.

Co-existence is not a Russian, but an English word. The word can be a useful one, especially in the present international situation. The World Council of Churches, meeting in Evanston, however, stated: "We avoid the use of this term because of its unhappy historical significance and some of its current political implications. 'Co-existence' as conceived by Christians cannot imply any willingness to disguise from themselves or others the vast difference which lies between the search for an international order based on belief in Christ and His reconciling work, and the pursuit of aims which repudiate the Christian revelation. There can be no abandonment of the right to assert this fundamental difference and the faith on which it rests."

The Christian faith demands more than mere co-existence; it requires that our faith seek a peaceful world order under God. The word co-existence is a good word if we mean by it a modus vivendi enabling the nations to avoid war during a probable long period of peaceful competition. It may well prepare the way for peaceful cooperation in abolishing war and in creating the conditions of and international organizations for the maintenance of permanent peace.

Peaceful co-existence rules out so-called "preventive war." Peaceful co-existence suggests counsels of restraint in the use of force, or even the threat of force, in the relation of nations with each other. Peaceful cooperation has positive aspects too. It may require modification and negotiation of policies between nations, in their international affairs.

Peaceful co-existence should not imply, and certainly does not require, surrender to tyranny or to ideologies inconsistent with freedom and justice. It does call for expanding areas of understanding, the relaxation of tensions, and the expansion of non-strategic trade agreements together with reduction of barriers to travel. Differences in religious faith, economic, and political forms of government have existed for ages. They will continue to exist. Pacific methods can and must be found for effecting change despite these differences, and hence, avoid the tragedy of world war.

A growing number of statesmen, foreign correspondents, and other students and analysts of international affairs express their judgment that a global war in the near future is unlikely. Some consider the chances of even a small war in the near future doubtful. The time is opportune for strengthening the foundations of truth, freedom, justice, and of negotiation and reconciliation.

Against this appraisal of the situation, we are confronted with an armament race of unparalleled proportion and destructive power. The armament race exists on all levels, including atomic, hydrogen and cobalt bombs, and probably bacteriological seapons. What shall we say of the morality of an age that indicts the poisoned arrow of uncivilized savages as immoral, yet at the height of our civilization seeks to justify a morality underlying experiments, if not the use of bacteriological poisons or cobalt bombs, capable of horrible mass extermination of millions of people in a blinding moment of time under the myth of "defense"?

Living together in a split world conducting a cold war, will require mutual willingness to maintain minimum essential conditions:

"1. A conviction that it is possible for nations and peoples to live together, at least for a considerable period of years.

"2. A willingness not to use force as an instrument of policy beyond the existing bloc frontiers. This would not mean the recognition and freezing of present injustices and the

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Officers of the Board: Rev. Ralph W. Sockman, president; Rev. Edmund Heinsohn, vice-president; Rev. George W. Carter, recording sec'y; Rev. Irvin S. Motz, treasurer.

Staff: Rev. Charles F. Boss, Jr., executive sec'y; Rev. Carl D. Soule, field sec'y; Mr. Herman Will, Jr., administrative sec'y.

unnatural divisions of nations, but it would mean renouncing coercion as a means of securing or redressing them.

"3. A vigorous effort to end social and other injustices which might lead to civil, and hence, international war.

"4. A scrupulous respect for the pledged word.

"5. A continuing effort to reach agreement on outstanding issues, such as the peace treaties and disarmament, which are essential to a broader stabilization and pacification of relations.

"6. Readiness to submit all unresolved questions of conflict to an impartial international organization and to carry out its decisions." (From Report received by the World Council of Churches - Evanston)

These are minimum requirements.

The Crusade for World Order among Methodists, and the peace movement in all churches through the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches, could give meaning to this "word of the new year," namely, "co-existence."

C.F.B.Jr.

BISHOPS ACT ON UMT

The Council of Bishops of The Methodist Church, meeting in Chicago, Nov. 18-21, 1954, declared:

"The proposal of universal military training threatens to rise again. Yet within our own lifetime, those who were the first to take the sword have perished by it. Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan were not saved by military training. Their very domination by the military way of life evoked a false sense of security and a disregard for spiritual values. The church is concerned with our survival as a democracy penetrated by Christian values. Militarism as a way of life is a foe of democracy and our forefathers fled to these shores to escape it. We call upon our people to prevent any attempt to fasten peacetime conscription on the American people."

WHAT WILL THE CHURCH DO ABOUT UMT?

1. Q: Is The Methodist Church still opposed to universal military training?

A: It is! The General Conference statement is official, and the Council of Bishops on November 18-21, 1954, adopted a strong statement published below. (Single copy free; additional copies $1.00 per 100).

2. Q: Are the new umt-Reserve proposals, universal military training or, a voluntary system?

A: It is a universal compulsory military training program. Within an over-all conscription plan, certain options are provided.

3. Q: Examples?

A: (1) Up to 100,000 young men, 17, 18, 19 years, would be permitted to enlist for six months of active service, then serve in a reserve for nine and a half years. (They either jump in the icy sea, or they will be pushed in. It is still a compulsory plan.)

(2) Men will be permitted to enlist in the navy or the air corps for three or four years of active service, then serve in the callable reserve corps.

(3) Men may await call under the regular Selective Service System where deferments for some may be made, etc. These are all options within an over-all compulsory military training and reserve program.

4. Q: Will there be an organized plan of action to oppose umt?

A: Yes. In cooperation with other Methodist agencies, the Board of World Peace will present a plan of education, discussion, legislative action, and witnessing before the appropriate committees of Congress when the specific nature of the proposals is known.

5. Q: Will articles on umt appear?

A: Yes. An article by the Executive Secretary of the Board of World Peace will appear within a few weeks in the CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, and, we believe, in other Methodist publications.

6. Q: Will pamphlet material be made available?

A: Yes. The February mailing of the COURIER and of the twelfth edition of REGISTER CHRISTIAN OPINION will include further information, pamphlet material, and study and action proposals.

Make no mistake. We are confronted with another move to put across on the American people an over-all plan of universal military training. This comes at a time when the Administration feels it no longer necessary to maintain as large an armed force as has been maintained during the past year. Cuts in the armed service have been proposed and will be debated in Congress.

7. Q: Is there an alternative we can support?

A: Yes. We should urge our government, through the United Nations, to press for the simultaneous universal abolition of peacetime conscription on the part of all nations.

READING MAKETH A LEARNED MAN, STUDY AN INFORMED MAN

PLOWSHARES AND PRUNING HOOKS, the Crusade for World Order booklet, is not only useful for study groups. It is an informing and challenging book for general reading. Many persons will find it impossible to become members of organized study groups. Every Methodist, however, should find it possible to read the fascinating and challenging chapters written by four internationally known and gifted speakers and writers. Bishop Oxnam has written a magnificent introduction to the booklet.

The superb style of Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, whose name is known by millions of listeners to the National Radio Pulpit sermons, finds expression in his fascinating chapter on THE MEANING OF PEACE.

In the second chapter, Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, Dean of a Lutheran Theological Seminary and Director of the Commission on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, has cogently, with unerring analytical insight, unfolded the chief purposes, problems, and achievements of the UNITED NATIONS in its amazing development.

The third chapter presents another world renowned figure, Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, who has participated in many international conferences and has skillfully directed the work of the National Council of Churches' Department of International Justice and Goodwill. He exposes the urgent necessity as well as the difficulties and trends in the field of UNIVERSAL DISARMAMENT. He tackles one of the toughest problems confronting statesmen today, yet -- a problem whose solution is possible and, indeed, imperative if man and his civilization are not to perish. This book, in fewer than 100 pages, unfolds challenging reading for sturdy minds who desire to leave, as an inheritance, a personal contribution to the growing world order of justice, freedom, and peace of tomorrow.

Orders are filled immediately upon their receipt. Where else can you find more important reading for a Christian citizen today than in these 94 pages of enlightened discussion, selling for only 50¢ per copy. (Order from the Central Promotional Office, 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Illinois.)

PREACHING FOR THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Preaching for the Prince of Peace is a glorious opportunity facing the Methodist ministers in February of this year of our Lord. No one can doubt that inspiration, skill, and hard labor must conspire, in producing preaching on the objectives of the Crusade which will produce conviction, conversion, awakening of the spirit, alerting of the mind, and the informing of Christians of their responsibility and privilege. How to preach effectively and persuasively, with the help of the holy spirit of God, is an every Sunday concern.

Bishop F. Gerald Ensley of Des Moines, Iowa, has suggested that if the pamphlet he has prepared on "The Preaching of Peace" for the Board of World Peace is of service to the ministers, he will be repaying a debt of gratitude. He states: "I have always been grateful to anyone for priming my pulpit pump. The suggestions that follow are minor installments on my indebtedness to those who have helped me to get a sermon going."

Under the striking cover page entitled VISION OF PEACE, depicting the Ancient of Days beating swords into plowshares, will be found an original interpretation of this bronze by Jules Butensky, written by Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr.

Bishop Ensley writes on "The Mood of Preaching on Peace" and then, facing some of the dilemmas, writes an interpretation of preaching on "I. The Meaning of Peace," "II. Preaching on the United Nations," and "III. Preaching on Disarmament."

This is a superb, dynamic approach to the above themes. This pamphlet, "The Preaching of Peace," has been included in the mailing every pastor has received on the Week of Dedication from the Central Promotional Office. Previously, it has been sent to the bishops and district superintendents. It is available to ministers only. Any pastor failing to receive his copy can secure one by writing to the Board of World Peace.

C.F.B.Jr.

NEW FILMSTRIP READY

A 15-minute filmstrip with recording, which deals with The Meaning of Peace, the United Nations, and Universal Disarmament, has just been completed and may be ordered from the Board of World Peace, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. Purchase price, $6.00, rental, $2.50 per showing.

This filmstrip expresses the Christian concern for world peace and suggests ways in which Methodists can work effectively for world order. It is valuable as a resource and teaching aid in the Crusade for World Order study program and for continuing use in the adult and youth divisions of the church school. It was produced by the Methodist Radio and Film Commission for the Board of World Peace.

YOUR LABORS ARE NOT UNKNOWN TO THE LORD

New Orleans. From Mrs. A. M. Bynum, Chairman of World Peace Committee, Louisiana Conference, C. J., comes the acknowledgment of her order of materials and the news that the New Orleans district is organizing its committee and naming a Peace Secretary. The district superintendents have set up seminars for the pastors and peace leaders in January and plans indicate wide cooperation. The Peace Committee also set up a U.N. Day program.

South Carolina Board of World Peace Chairman writes: "I had the pleasure of attending a peace seminar at the United Nations. Came back and made three radio talks on the U.N. and World Peace." Paper written by Chairman Robert P. Turner won first place at the radio station under the title, "How To Stop Communist Aggression." Desires materials on what Methodists can do.

Columbus, Ohio. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) USAR-ret., now District Secretary of World Peace, Karl W. Scheuffler attended a Board of World Peace U.N. Seminar, N.Y. Sends interesting Walnut Street Church, Chillicothe, program as their cooperation in district and conference plans.

Minneapolis, Minnesota. Conference Board Chairman Dennis Nybert has submitted their three-page district program which deals with practically every recommendation made for the Crusade. Indicates fine cooperation by the churches of the districts.

Space prevents more detail. Many conferences are reporting fine programs: Southern California-Arizona, Pacific Northwest, Georgia, New England Area, Genesee, Central Pennsylvania, Southwest Texas, Northwest Texas, Missouri, Wisconsin, etc., are among them.

PRAYER SUGGESTION FOR PASTORS

A pastor in North Carolina effectively used a prayer for peace period which Dr. Harry Denman, Executive Secretary of The Board of Evangelism describes below. Bishop Oxnam in a letter asks: "Do you think this might be a suggestion that we could make to all of our ministers as we approach the Crusade for World Order February services? It would seem to me most appropriate."

There was a silent period before the sermon listed as, "Prayer For Peace." Following the prayer in silence the congregation sang to the tune of America a prayer for brotherhood and peace. You can, of course, substitute a different hymn or verse than the one used:

"Father of every race,
Giver of every grace,
Hear us we pray!
Let every land be free;
May all men brothers be,
All nations honor Thee now and for aye.
Amen."

CRUSADE MAGAZINE ARTICLES—A PARTIAL LIST

THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE:

January 27, 1955, Dr. Edmund Heinsohn: The Church and Peace-Making

December 30, 1954, Dr. Harold A. Bosley: The Race That Ends in Death

December 2, 1954, Dr. Henry Hitt Crane: Peace and the Power Problem

October 21, 1954, Dr. Ralph W. Sockman and Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr.: Born in the Age of International Co-operation

September 23, 1954, Bishop F. Gerald Ensley: What Counts for Peace?

WORLD OUTLOOK - December 1954

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam: Methodism on the Witness Stand

Senator John Sparkman: Why We Should Support the United Nations

Pictorial Section: Some Ways the United Nations Builds for Peace

Dr. A. William Loos: Disarmament and Collective Security

Mr. Ernest A. Gross: A Practical View of Charter Review

Pictorial Section: Missions and World Order

THE PASTOR - January 1955

Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr.: Moving Into an Age of Peace

Rev. Austin H. Armitstead: A World Peace Committee Acts

SHEPHERDS - February 1955

Methodist Editors Meet

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

With Prayers For Peace high on the list, six Methodist Churches, at 6 p.m. December 31st, 1954, began a vigil of prayer to last until 6 p.m. on January 1st, 1955, as part of a continuing vigil of prayer to last through every minute of every day of the whole year. In Brownsville, Tenn., in a Prayer Mission on November 11th, Bishop Roy H. Short and Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, President Eisenhower's pastor, were among the speakers. The year-round vigil of prayer for peace is under the direction of The General Board of Evangelism, which is cooperating superbly in the Crusade for World Order.

Pastors and churches interested in cooperating should write to Dr. Harry Denman, Board of Evangelism, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.